



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Iowa Ag News – Labor



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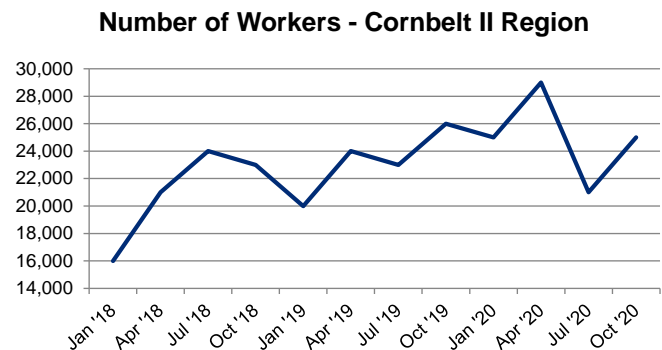
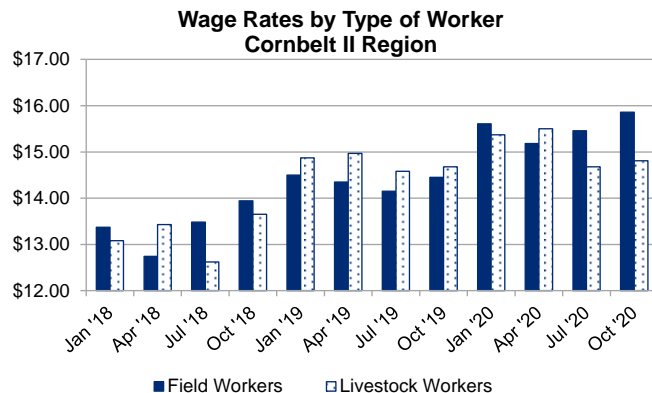
Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

February 11, 2021

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There were 21,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Cornbelt II Region (Iowa and Missouri) during the reference week of July 12-18, 2020, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor Report*. This was down 9% from the July 2019 reference week. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$15.90 per hour, up 82 cents from July 2019. The number of hours worked averaged 37.7 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 37.2 hours during the July 2019 reference week.

During the reference week of October 11-17, 2020, there were 25,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Cornbelt II Region (Iowa and Missouri). This was down 4% from the October 2019 reference week. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$16.10 per hour during the October 2020 reference week, up \$1.00 from October 2019. The number of hours worked averaged 39.8 for hired workers during the reference week, up from 38.3 hours during the October 2019 reference week.



Hired Workers, Hours Worked and Wage Rates – Cornbelt II Region and United States: 2019-2020

[Cornbelt II Region includes Iowa and Missouri]

	Cornbelt II Region			United States		
	October 2019	July 2020	October 2020	October 2019	July 2020	October 2020
Hired workers on farms..... 1,000 workers	26	21	25	809	777	758
Hours worked by hired workers hours per week	38.3	37.7	39.8	42.5	41.4	42.1
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined..... dollars per hour	14.55	15.15	15.50	14.21	14.85	15.10
Field dollars per hour	14.45	15.46	15.86	14.38	14.98	15.28
Livestock dollars per hour	14.68	14.68	14.81	13.77	14.50	14.62
All hired workers dollars per hour	15.10	15.90	16.10	15.02	15.62	15.87

¹ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

UNITED STATES LABOR

There were 758,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 11-17, 2020, down 6% from the October 2019 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 777,000 during the week of July 12-18, 2020, down 3% from the July 2019 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average gross wage of \$15.87 per hour during the October 2020 reference week, up 6% from the October 2019 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$15.28 per hour, up 6%. Livestock workers earned \$14.62 per hour, up 6%. The field and livestock worker combined gross wage rate, at \$15.10 per hour, was up 6% from the 2019 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 42.1 hours during the October 2020 reference week, down 1% from the hours worked during the October 2019 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average gross wage of \$15.62 per hour during the July 2020 reference week, up 5% from the July 2019 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$14.98 per hour, up 6%, while livestock workers earned \$14.50 per hour, up 5% from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined gross wage rate, at \$14.85 per hour, was up 5% from the July 2019 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.4 hours during the July 2020 reference week, down 1% from the hours worked during the July 2019 reference week.

The 2020 all hired worker annual average gross wage rate was \$15.49 per hour, up 4% from the 2019 annual average gross wage rate. The 2020 field worker annual average gross wage rate was \$14.76 per hour, up 5% from the 2019 annual average. The 2020 livestock worker annual average gross wage rate was \$14.35 per hour. The 2020 annual average combined gross wage for field and livestock workers was \$14.62, up 5% from the 2019 annual average of \$13.99 per hour.